



Alachua County Environmental Protection Advisory Committee

*Jay Rosenbek, Chair
Christopher Stoney, Vice-Chair
Summer Waters, Staff Liaison*

EPAC DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Prepared by Krista Kilburg

December 3rd, 2024 - 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Grace Knight Conference Room, Alachua County Administration Building,
12 E 1st Street, Gainesville, FL 32601

Board members attending in person: George Papadi, Christopher Stoney, Bettina Moser, Heshan Illangoon, David Vaina, Krista Kilburg, Holly Florence, Jan Frentzen

Staff attending in person: Summer Waters

Guests attending in person: Chase Pirtle, Leslie Straub, Bill Frankenberger

1. Call to Order

Chair Jay Rosenbek called to order at 6:03pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

Vice-Chair Chris Stoney motioned to move Climate Summit Update to the 4th item, Bettina Moser seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Jan Frentzen motioned to approve minutes; Holly Florence seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Climate Summit Update, Jay Rosenbek

Having attended the CCAC's Climate Summit, Chair Jay Rosenbek shared his notes with the purpose of discussions guiding the structure of thinking for the committee. Jay gave a recap of the one day event and discussed the items being brought forward in the Climate Action Plan.

5. Gopher Tortoises and Conservation

Chase Pirtle, Director of Ashton Biological Preserve (ABP) covered the following topics.

- A presentation of the Gopher Tortoise curriculum update, discussing ABP's survey of burrows into "active", "inactive" and "abandoned".
- An examination of the practice of gassing burrows and its detrimental effects (i.e. aquifer contamination, species endangerment)
- Florida is seeing a transition with respect to relocation with South Florida running out of recipient sites and relocation to distant sites lowering tortoises chances of survival due to stress and inability to adapt, creating "Zombie" tortoises that will live out their days but not procreate leading to ultimate decline in population over decades.
- Discussion of creating safe havens for wildlife in pasteurized systems; the importance of corridor systems and educating farmers; tax break to encourage animal protection
- Comparison of conservation easements vs agricultural easements and the need for protection programs through land set aside.
- Discussion of options on a local level development plan review including recapture clause and encourage onsite set aside instead of relocation.

6. Public Comment

Citizen A: Leslie Straub

Discussion of proposed development between Staghorn and Turkey Creek in the City of Alachua. Plans indicate wetland filling.

7. Finalize Work Plan

Discussion about the conduction of a Special Area Study for Hickory Sink (AKA Lee Property). Agreed on changing language to stay updated on all countywide Special Area Studies.

- Broaden energy scope to "alternative energy including waste to energy"
- Add support to heat policy under "health and safety" grouping

Dr. Illangkoon discussed new toxins in tire particles. After discussion the group decided to broaden language from microplastics and nano plastics to micro and nano particulates.

Jan Frentzen motioned to approve the Work Plan with above-mentioned changes, Christopher Stoney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm